

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

### **CITY OF VAUGHAN AWARD FOR HIGHER ARTS EDUCATION**

#### **Recommendation**

The Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee recommends:

1. That the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* eligibility criteria and terms and conditions for the proposed program as outlined in this report and found in Attachment 1 and 2, be approved; and,
2. That Council authorize the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee to select two annual Award recipients by assessing student applications through an adjudication process based on financial need and academic merit.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

#### **Economic Impact**

The annual cost of implementing the proposed *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* as outlined in this report will be \$2,000: two awards of \$1000 per year. An award each will be given out to a student enrolled in a secondary school program for the arts, and another pursuing post-secondary education in the arts. The annual cost of the program will be covered through fundraised monies totaling approximately \$22,000 collected in 2009 by the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee to support the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education*.

#### **Communications Plan**

The promotion of the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* program will be through the distribution of the Submission Guidelines and Application Form (Attachments 1 and 2) to Vaughan secondary schools, Greater Toronto Area universities, colleges and professional and commercial art schools; and it will be posted on the City of Vaughan and Vaughan Public Libraries websites.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* program for Council's approval, and to request that the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee be given the authority to select two annual Award recipients by assessing student applications through an adjudication process based on a financial need and academic merit.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

In 2009, the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee with assistance from the Department of Recreation and Culture and the support of Vaughan Council established the annual R.A.V.E. Awards (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence). This community celebration of excellence and achievement was developed as a formal vehicle to recognize the significant contributions of individuals, businesses and organizations that enhance the vitality of the arts in Vaughan. On

June 24, 2009, the inaugural R.A.V.E. Awards reception was hosted to present awards to ten winning recipients nominated from various categories within the disciplines of the Performing, Visual and Literary arts. The Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee launched a successful corporate sponsorship campaign which raised \$28,000 in cash (and additional services in kind) to help offset some of the program and reception costs associated with implementing the inaugural R.A.V.E. Awards and secondly to create a dedicated fund that would facilitate the establishment of an annual bursary program designed specifically to assist the emerging talent of eligible Vaughan students pursuing post-secondary education in the arts by distributing cash awards. A total of approximately \$22,000 from the fundraised monies was allocated to establish the bursary program. Hence, the genesis of the proposed *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* program evolved in conjunction with the R.A.V.E. Awards, with both programs sharing the common objective of recognizing excellence and achievement in the arts.

The *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* program was developed to encourage the pursuit of secondary and post-secondary education in the arts and provide cash assistance by recognizing outstanding student achievement and an intention to follow an arts career. The eligibility criteria and specifications for students submitting applications for the Award are outlined in the Submission Guidelines and Application Form (Attachments 1 and 2). In summary, the submission guidelines are as follows:

- Students must be residents of Vaughan and be enrolled in either secondary or post-secondary education in an arts discipline.
- A maximum of two cash awards valued at \$1,000 each will be distributed annually: one to a Vaughan student enrolled in a secondary school arts program and one to a Vaughan student enrolled in a post-secondary arts education program.
- Awards will be based on financial need and academic merit.
- Selection of the award recipients will be made by the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee.
- Submissions must be accompanied by an application form, one academic reference letter and one character reference letter, a record of arts accomplishments and relevant experience and digital illustrations of significant arts accomplishments.
- Award recipients will be expected to sign a formal letter of agreement outlining specific terms and conditions of acceptance to include: a forfeit of the cash award if studies are abandoned, an academic progress report, documentation of academic work to be featured in an annual review and at an upcoming R.A.V.E. Awards Reception, and a testimonial of how the award impacted on their arts career path.
- Award Recipients will be announced on Thursday June 24, 2010 during the upcoming R.A.V.E. Awards Reception.
- The submission deadline for 2010 is May 21.

Student applicants will be expected to provide the following information:

- The art institution in which they are currently enrolled and/or plan to be enrolled with the next academic year along with the level of secondary education achieved to date.
- An explanation of why they should be considered for an Award and how they would use the cash to pursue higher arts education.
- An indication of the career path they envision themselves following over the next five years.
- A brief statement of financial need identifying expenses or circumstances that makes their situation particularly challenging.

Through the generous contributions of corporate sponsors who supported the 2009 R.A.V.E. Awards, approximately \$22,000 is reserved for the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* program over the next few years. The Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee will continue to campaign for annual corporate sponsorship money in support of both R.A.V.E. Awards and the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* to help ensure adequate funds are available for

student bursaries. The program exemplifies the overall vision of the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee in its continuing efforts to support and promote awareness of the arts in Vaughan.

A subcommittee of the Arts Advisory Committee helped establish the terms and conditions of the bursary program and the Committee approved the program as a whole at its January 14, 2010 meeting.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:  
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:  
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

### **Regional Implications**

N/A

### **Conclusion**

The *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education* will assist the emerging talent of Vaughan students pursuing secondary or post-secondary education in the arts. This initiative will profile the artistic achievements of Vaughan's student sector and reinforce the integral role art education plays in the City's cultural landscape. In association with the R.A.V.E. Awards, this bursary program will play a vital role in fostering the growth of artistic excellence and creative expression in the City of Vaughan, encouraging community engagement and sustainable partnerships.

### **Attachments**

1. Award for Higher Arts Education Submission Guidelines
2. Award for Higher Arts Education Application Form

### **Report prepared by:**

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, ext. 8342  
Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Arts Coordinator, ext. 7312  
Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, ext. 8139

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco  
Chair, Arts Advisory Committee

## CITY OF VAUGHAN AWARD FOR HIGHER ARTS EDUCATION

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education was established by the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee as an annual award to assist the emerging talent of Vaughan students pursuing post-secondary education in the arts.

---

#### Purpose

To encourage the pursuit of higher education in the arts.

#### Eligibility

- Applicants must be residents of Vaughan.
- Applicants must be enrolled in either secondary or post-secondary education in any discipline of the arts for the coming term and demonstrate a committed interest in pursuing a career in the arts.
- Immediate families of Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee members are ineligible to apply.
- Winners of this annual Award are ineligible to apply in subsequent years.

#### Selection

- Up to two Awards may be distributed annually: one to a Vaughan student enrolled in a secondary school arts education program and one to a Vaughan student enrolled in a post-secondary arts education program.
- Awards will be selected based on financial need and academic merit.
- Selection will be made by the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee.

#### Value

\$1,000 per Award

#### Deadline

Applications must be received by Friday May 21, 2010, 5:00 p.m. (EST)

#### Submission

- All applications must be completed in full and accompanied by the following support material no later than May 21, 2010:
  - Completed Application Form
  - Two Recent Reference Letters: 1. Academic Reference Letter Including a Record of Academic Merit (provided by a member of your arts faculty) 2. Character Reference Letter (attesting to your commitment to the arts and/or community)
  - Record of Arts Accomplishments and Relevant Experience
  - Digital Illustrations of Significant Arts Accomplishments (i.e. visual images of artwork burned to a CD in a jpeg or pdf format, performance CD/DVD/photographic stills, literary samples, etc.)
- Delivery may include mail, courier, hand delivery, fax or email
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

## Announcement

- Award recipients will be notified by June 4, 2010 and will be expected to sign a formal letter of agreement outlining specific terms and conditions.
- Award recipients will be announced on Thursday, June 24, 2010 during the formal R.A.V.E. Awards Reception (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence).
- A public announcement of Award recipients will be released following the R.A.V.E. Awards Reception.

## ATTACHMENT 2

# CITY OF VAUGHAN AWARD FOR HIGHER ARTS EDUCATION

### APPLICATION FORM

Submission Deadline: May 21, 2010

Please review the guidelines carefully before completing the Application Form. Students must complete all sections and submit applications accompanied by all the required support material by the deadline to be considered. Please print clearly.

#### Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Work/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the conditions for the City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education and agree to submit my application under these terms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you require additional space, please answer the following questions on separately typed pages:

1. List the art education institution(s) in which you are currently and/or plan to be enrolled within the 2010-2011 academic year and indicate the level of secondary education you have achieved to date:

2. Indicate why you feel you should be considered for this Award and explain how you would use it to further your pursuit of higher arts education:

3. What career path do you envision yourself following over the next five years?

4. Please provide a brief statement of financial need identifying any expenses or circumstances that make your situation particularly challenging:

---

### Submissions

#### Checklist

Applications must include the following support material:

- Completed Application Form
- Two Recent Reference letters (Academic/Character References)
- Record of Arts Accomplishments and Relevant Experience
- Digital Illustrations of Significant Arts Accomplishments (i.e. visual images of artwork, performance CD/DVD/Photographic stills, literary samples, etc.)

#### Delivery

Please submit applications by mail/email/fax/hand-delivered to:

Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Arts Coordinator

2141 Major Mackenzie Drive

Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1